

20754

7/16/66

Dear Mr. Salsburg,

Your properly addressed letter of the 11th was treated to the abuse that has become customary with our mail, at least. It bears three additional incorrect postmarks, for no apparent reason, and didn't reach here until today. Had I known of it earlier I'd have phoned you going to or coming from New York, where I taped what I think will be an unusually exciting and dramatic TV program, two hours long, to be aired on Channel 5, WNEW, Metromedia. It may have some spillover in Phila. I'm answering in haste to let you know the schedule at WCAU has been changed. Radio the 22nd, TV the 28th. I've agreed. The educational TV show will have to await the resolution of a format conflict between the Washington and New York stations, which may be any time now....But I will call you when I get to Phila. the 22nd....I'll have about 200 copies of WHITEWASH with me that I have held back for Phila. unless I hear something definite from the distributor.

In any event, I'll have more than that 50, for there are almost none in Phila. alone of the large east-coast cities, and the 5,000 are almost gone! It is wildfire on the west coast, where Rayney again ordered another 500 this week. We'll go back to press as soon as the distributors pay us and we can pay the printer, who did the first printing on credit. It will take about a week, without overtime, from the time he starts...All is very encouraging, especially for such an unusual form of a private printing. It was featured on the BBC TV newscast Thursday. Within a single week we've had requests for the rights in both Spain and Italy, and other things are in the offing.

I'll be delighted to speak to your men's group September 20. The only possible conflict is an indefinite one. That is approximately the date I agreed to go to California, subject to confirmation. If they pick a conflicting date, I'll ask them if they can change it. As I recall, because it was by phone, I agreed to go there and speak on the 22nd. But there will be no problem. There will be none about what you pay me. Now that the book is generating so much interest and has really opened the entire subject, some people in New York have been talking about an organized speaking tour. Until (and if) that happens, I have been fixing no charge. People have been paying my expenses and whatever in addition they feel they can afford. Were I to speak before a group that could not afford to pay, I'd speak for nothing. On the other hand, we have been entirely without income for 2 1/2 years and have gone deep into debt on this and we need what income we can get, urgently. This book cannot possibly be profitable, our investment of both time and considerable money in it is of that great magnitude. So I'll leave this part entirely up to you, for you know what you can do and I am satisfied you'll be fair. Sometime between then and now let me know how long you'd want me to talk and whether you'd like part (and if so what part) saved back in case there are questions. A question period can be, as I have learned, the most exciting part. But I have also learned that often grown men seem to fear asking questions; are almost embarrassed by it. On the other hand, young adults can exhaust me. I spoke at the University of Maryland last week. Two hours were scheduled. It lasted 4 1/2! Only late suppers ended it then, for I would not refuse a single question from these wonderful young minds...If I do not get to Phila. too late Friday I'll phone you when I get there. I'm not due at WCAU until 9:30 p.m.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg